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EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT
RAVAGE
2099
IS
WRONG
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MY BODY'S REVERTED TO AN EARLIER BIO-PROGRAM... SOMEWHERE FROM MAN'S DISTANT ORIGINS--WAY BEFORE THE APE...
...MY SYSTEM'S CRASHED...
BIO-CRASH!
RAVAGE 2099
CREATED BY
STAN LEE & PAUL RYAN
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Scanned By GOTHMAN
For The HaCsA Halloween Flood 2002

...I'VE BEEN LYING IN THIS TECH-BENDER FOR THREE WEEKS... IN THE DECRED COMMUNITY IN THE BARRIO...
...I THOUGHT I WAS DYING... THE WAY I FEEL, I WISH I WAS...
THAT FLYING BATHTUB WE WERE IN PACKED UP... ITS ANCIENT REACTOR SPENT, ITS ENERGY SOURCE TOO CLOSE TO THE END OF ITS HALF-LIFE...
WE ALL STEPPED OUT OF THE WRECKAGE OKAY, APART FROM CUTS AND BRUISES.
MINE HEALED ALMOST INSTANTLY... IN FACT, ALL MY SCARS DISAPPEARED.
YOU ARE RAVAGE... WE KNOW OF YOU AND YOUR FIGHT-- YOU ARE ALL WELCOME HERE.
AND YOU'RE THE GUY I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR... I HOPE YOU'VE GOT SOME EXPLANATIONS FOR ME.
SOMETHING INCREDIBLE WAS HAPPENING TO ME...
LIKE AN ANIMAL, I NEEDED SOLITUDE-- LIVE OR DIE, I HAD TO DEAL WITH IT IN SECLUSION.

HE'S COMING ROUND, BARRIO MAN.
THE DISC... WHERE'S THE DISC...? HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN OUT...?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE DISC. YOU'VE GOT MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO THINK ABOUT.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! THE DISC IS EVERYTHING! IT'S GOT ALL THE INFORMATION WE NEED TO BRING DOWN ALCHEMAX.
IT'S OKAY-- WE'VE GOT IT...
...BUT REALLY, I THINK YOU SHOULD... TAKE A LOOK AT YOURSELF.

VOOO
THE ENERGY'S GONE... THE TOXICS HAVE DONE SOMETHING DEEP INSIDE ME...!
WE KNOW SOMETHING OF THIS... IT'S MENTIONED IN OUR CODEX HEROICA... IT'S ONE OF THE WAYS HEROES WERE MADE.
YOUR BODY'S D.N.A.-- THE BIOLOGICAL SOFTWARE SYSTEM -- HAS DEFAULTED INTO PRIMARY MODE.
YEAH, YEAH... SO WHERE DO THE HORNS COME FROM AND THESE CLAWS...
"OBVIOUSLY WHATEVER MAN WAS BEFORE HE BECAME A PRIMATE, HE HAD HORNS... WE MAY NOT FIGHT FOR OUR FEMALES DURING THE RUTTING SEASON, BUT CLEARLY OUR DISTANT ANCESTORS DID."

SO I'M PERMANENTLY IN RUT, EH? I WONDERED WHY I COULD SMELL EVERY WOMAN WHO WENT PAST THE TENT.
'FRAID NOT, MAN... ANYWAY, THIS CHANGE THAT HAS COME OVER YOU HAS A HIGHER PURPOSE. THAN YOUR CARNAL TASTES.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "HIGHER PURPOSE?"
WELL, AS YOU KNOW, WE IN THE BARRIO KEEP ALIVE THE OLD VALUES FROM THE LOST AGE OF HEROES...
...BUT, ACCORDING TO THE CODEX HEROICA... THAT AGE WILL RETURN!
ME A HERO...? THAT'S A JOKE!
I'VE DONE NOTHING BUT SCREW UP SINCE I GOT KICKED OUT OF MY OFFICE!
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN YOU WERE THE LEADER OF THE GREEN BERETS? THE HERO WHO ENDED...
"...THE POLLUTION WARS?"

'COURSE I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN... IT WAS THE WAR THAT CHANGED THE WORLD POLITICAL MAP...
"...WHEN POWER SHIFTED IRREVOCABLY FROM ELECTED GOVERNMENTS TO GIANT TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS.
THE CONFEDERATION OF WORLD INDUSTRIES--ALCHEMAX, STARK-FUJIKAWA, SYNTHIA--WERE ENGAGED IN A SAVAGE CIVIL WAR...
...AGAINST THE FEDERATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENTS, BACKED BY A CONSORTIUM OF TRADITIONAL, NATIONAL COMPANIES...
...THE SO-CALLED POLLUTERS.
"THE CONFEDERATION--WITH THEIR SUPPOSEDLY CLEANER TECHNOLOGY--SAID WE WERE FIGHTING FOR A GREENER WORLD... ONE FIT FOR OUR CHILDREN.
IT WAS SOMETHING WORTH DYING FOR!"

"AND MANY OF US DID ON THAT NIGHT. WE TOOK THE U.C.I. CHEMICAL WORKS... IT WAS THE LAST BATTLE OF THE WAR...
WE COULDN'T USE PROJECTILES FOR FEAR OF BLOWING THE TOXIC TANKS...
WE HAD TO GO IN WITH SONICS AND FLESH DISRUPTORS...
EVIL WEAPONS THAT LIQUIFIED FLESH... POPPED JOINTS... AND BURST INTERNAL ORGANS...
THE FEDS KNEW THEY WERE DEFEATED AND WERE READY TO BLOW UP THE TOX-TANKS..."
STUFF YOU, GREEN BOYS! BACK OFF... OR YOU'LL TURN BLUE WHEN I PRESS THIS BUTTON...
...YOU AND THE REST OF THE EASTERN SEABOARD!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT GUN, RAVAGE?
JUST TRUST ME, DUPLEDGE!
NO, RAV! THAT CRAZY MEANS WHAT HE SAYS!
ONE CHANCE, DUPLEDGE... IF I CAN GET CLOSE ENOUGH!
CAN'T LET YOU DO IT, PAUL-PHILIP! IF YOU MISS, MILLIONS OF LIVES WILL BE LOST!
OUT OF MY WAY, ALEC!

I WON'T MISS, ALEC!

BULLPEN BULLETINS

TOM TALK

We've always said that you, our beloved reader, are the true editor of Marvel Comics. We always solicit your opinions, listen to your comments, and take your suggestions to heart. Some of you even get so entranced with a particular character or storyline that you even try your hand at writing.

On a weekly basis we receive hundreds of these self-generated stories. Some of them are in the form of comic book plots. Others are very detailed scripts. We also receive a fair share of proposals which are meant to cover the next two or three years of a title's continuity, as well as fully illustrated comic presentations, prose stories, screenplays, and one ambitious fellow once sent a novel which was more than a thousand typewritten pages in length! WHEW!

While we're extremely flattered by all your efforts on our behalf, we really don't have the time to lavish the proper attention on every one of these unsolicited submissions. If we spent all our time reading your stories, we wouldn't be able to produce our own!Due to our own extremely hectic schedules, we rarely give personal responses or detailed criticisms, and we never return these presentations unless you included a stamped self-addressed envelope.

We know what most of you send these stories for, the sheer fun of it! If that's your case, I say...GO FOR IT! Enjoy yourself!

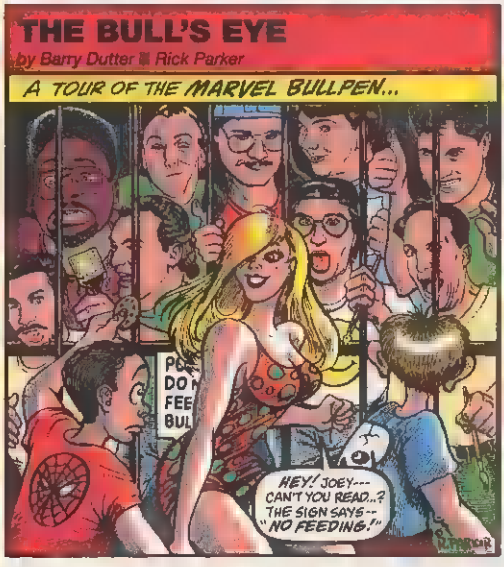
There are others among you who harbor aspirations of joining the ranks of our peerless professionals. Your road is harder. You must study the form of this unique medium, learn its craft, and adhere to the proper submission guidelines. (If you don't know what I'm talking about, there are quite a few publications written about the comic book industry -- MARVEL AGE, for example -- which can help you.) The competition is real tough. You owe it to yourself to do the necessary research before you submit.

In any event, though we don't often show it, we want you to know that we sincerely appreciate all of the time, effort, and creativity which you put into each and every one of these Marvel-inspired masterpieces!

Tom D.

Tom D.

Ever since we hit upon the near-brilliant idea of going weekly with this page, we knew it would happen eventually -- a slow news week, where we'd have nothing to write about. Well, guess what this week is? So to avoid a page of eye-relaxing whiteness, we figured we'd visit an oft-neglected region of the sublime world of Marvel Comics and report on what we learned. Come with us now, as we get up close and personal with those wacky Marveloids in the Production Bullpen. Observe them in their native environment, study their behavior, make note of their talk, but make sure not to take flash pictures as they are quick to anger!



Many Bullpenners are also quick to hunger, apparently. Letterer **Dave Sharpe** was heard to comment, "I enjoy the taste of red meat, and wearing its skin." Quicker paster-upper **Loretta Kroll** added that she'll eat anything that doesn't move and has tomato sauce on it. And letterer **"Laz" Lazellari,** when asked to name a few of his favorite things, said, "Roseanne, Queen, and lunch." Sounds like the punchline to one of Johnny Carson's old Karnak gags, doesn't it?

Cover colorist **George Roussos**, who has forgotten more than most of us will ever know, summed up the Marvel philosophy for us: "We're seeking perfection at all costs. We do it over and over and over again till we get it right!" Paste-up specialist **Steve Bunche** was overheard to recommending a videotape entitled *Devil Man 2.* Letterer **Susan Crespi** lists her favorite color as "red, green, purple, orange ... all of them!" Fortunately for us, Susan is a letterer, not a colorist.

Production guy **Mike Kraiger** was heard to say he wants to move his desk to the park on 23rd Street. When he bugs us, letterer **Darren Auck** demanded, "Leave me alone!" Letterer **Jon Bogdanove** thinks we should all have cats the size of great danes to intimidate everyone we meet. To which production ace **Thomas Velasquez** replied, "I have a killer Chihuahua named Scruff!" Art correctionist/Romita raider **Bobbie Koblish** noted for no one in particular, "I have two left shoes!" When pressed, cover coordinator **Dave Alexandrov** revealed "All information about me is personal and classifed!" Less classified is that **Cindy Emmert** is the unsung computer-whiz who designs the very page you're reading. Paste-up whiz **Jim Hoston** was intent to let everyone know he recently broke his personal record by staying up for 52 straight hours to color an X-MEN custom comic.

Romita raider **Bill Wylie** was overheard to claim, "Al Gore and I were separated at birth!" Elsewhere paste-up wizard **Spencer Lamm** mentioned he has just self-published his third annual issue of *Expressions of Dread,* a 48 page descent into horrors both real and imagined. The mag is sponsored by Spence's old school, New York University, and the latest issue features **Clive Barker,** an exclusive interview with a convicted serial killer, and a step-by-step guide to embalming. Hmmm ...

Maybe we'd better sneak out of Marvel's wildlife conservation area while we still can. With any luck, next week the news will hit fast and furiously once more!

HYPELINE: ON SALE THIS WEEK

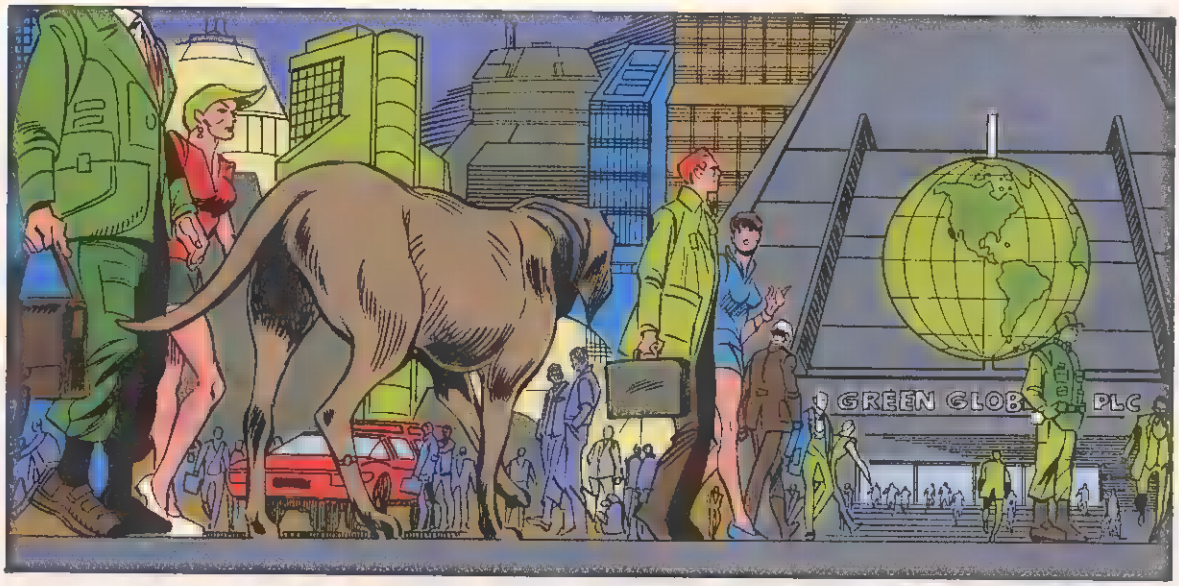
- ☐ **[illegible] TPB #9:** It's reprint-erific!
- ☐ **[illegible] FLIGHT #123: Infinity** [illegible] Crossover!
- ☐ **[illegible] #380:** Only four chapters of "Maximum Carnage" to go!
- ☐ **BARBIE** The mystery of the disappearing gorilla!
- ☐ **DARKHOLD #11: Blade** goes berserk in the Midnight [illegible]
- ☐ **[illegible] RIDER** It's a Midnight Massacre when somebody *dies!*
- ☐ **[illegible] OF THE [illegible] Doom** vs. **Rancor!** Bet Doom — he wears Wolverine's skeleton!
- ☐ **INVADERS #4 OF 4:** The secret of the Mojave Project revealed!
- ☐ **MARVEL COMICS [illegible]** Written by Marvel's most talented!
- ☐ **MIDNIGHT MEN [illegible] 4:** If you're achin' for Chaykin, this is the one for you!
- ☐ **MORBIUS REVISITED # 1 OF 5:** Those Morbius stories from the 70's so good, we had to reprint them!
- ☐ **OFFCASTES #2 [illegible] 3:** Cast your vote for this book!
- ☐ **[illegible] #14:** What are the odds that **Death's** [illegible] would show up?
- ☐ **PUNISHER [illegible] #18:** The [illegible] has a blueprint for murder!
- ☐ **[illegible] Kayla** battles **Kismet,** and one gets *killed!*
- ☐ **[illegible] 2099 #9:** Meet Ravage's mentor!
- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #212:** The Golden Serpent wakes, rattles, and rolls!
- ☐ **SECRET DEFENDERS #6:** With **Spider-Man, Captain America,** and the [illegible] **Witch!**
- ☐ **[illegible] SABLE #15:** Silver wants [illegible] Viper — but [illegible] does **Captain America!**
- ☐ **SLEEPWALKER** The Avengers battle the **Mindspawn!** But whose side of the bed is Sleepy on?
- ☐ **THOR ANNUAL** The action heats up with a new villain, the *Flame!*
- ☐ **WARHEADS: BLACK DAWN OF 2:** The Lord of Vampires drops in for a bite!
- ☐ **[illegible] THING** Rumble with Virtual Reality street gangs!
- ☐ **WOLVERINE** Savage showdown in the Savage Land!
- ☐ **WONDER MAN #24:** Fear the [illegible] Reaper!
- ☐ **X-FACTOR** Introducing the **Anti-Magnetos!**
- ☐ **X-MEN [illegible] Archangel** is singing for X-Men blood!

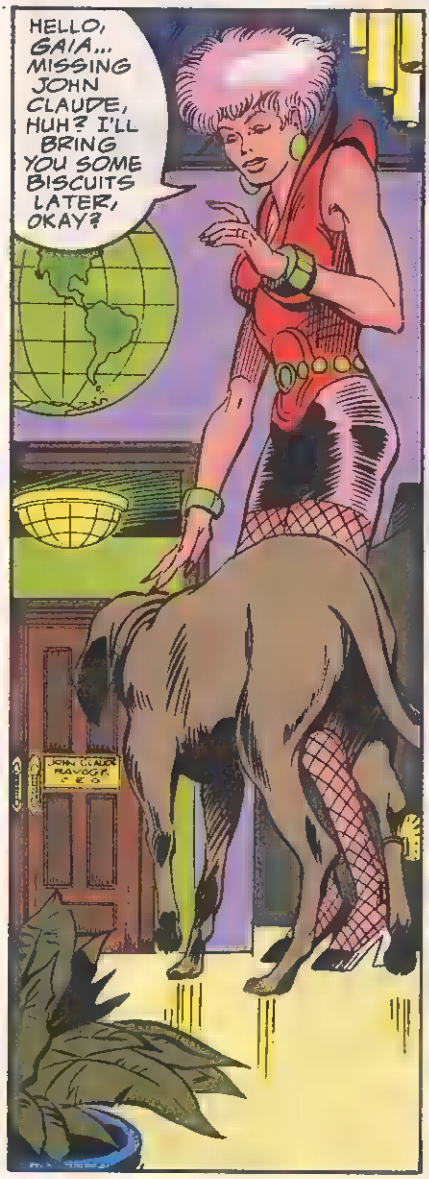
"I KNEW I COULD DO IT... I WAS THE BEST SHOT IN MY UNIT...
OKAY, I WARNED YOU!
I WAS WOUNDED... BUT I KNEW IF I COULD JUST HIT HIS WRIST...
...IT WOULD SEVER THE TENDONS...
...THE HAND WOULD SPRING OPEN...
...AND..."

"I WAS AWARDED THE GREEN CROSS FOR EXCEPTIONAL VALOR.
ONLY IT WAS ALL A LIE... ALCHEMAX AND THE OTHERS JUST WANTED TO DO AWAY WITH DEMOCRACY AND REMOVE THE COMPETITION..."
AFTER THE WAR, THEY MADE ME HEAD OF ECO...I WAS A CONVENIENT AND WILLING FIGUREHEAD FOR THEM.
ALL THIS MAY BE TRUE... BUT YOU'RE STILL A HERO, RAVAGE.
DACK...! TIANA...!
YOU SHOOT ME-- MY MEN WILL WIPE YOU OUT...
SURRENDER AND LIVE! YOUR CHOICE!
AND IT WAS GREAT BEING WITH A HERO... RUNNING AROUND, SHOOTING UP THE BAD GUYS.
COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITH-OUT YOU, DACK.
THAT'S THE WHOLE POINT, MAN... YOU COULD... BUT I NEED A FAMILY. I'M STILL A KID, Y'KNOW?
HE'S STAYING WITH US-- IF THAT'S OKAY WITH YOU, RAVAGE?

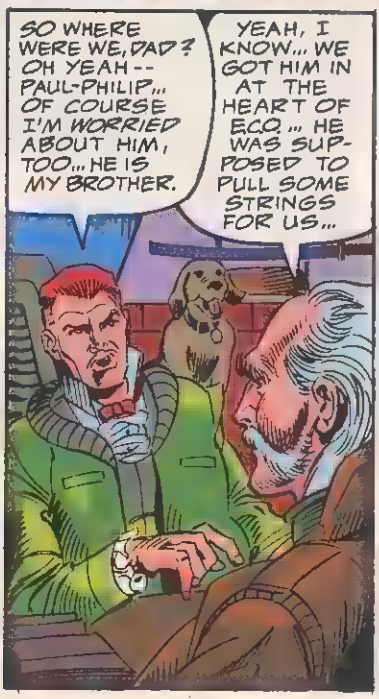
WE'VE GOT SOME TALKING OUT TO DO AS WELL, PAUL-PHILIP...
COME TO MY PLACE.
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, BABE... I CAN'T WAIT...
SNNF! SNFF! BUT COULD I ASK YOU NOT TO WEAR THAT PERFUME...? WITH MY NEW HEIGHTENED SENSES, IT'S A BIT MUCH.
IT BLOCKS OUT YOUR NATURAL SCENT.
WELL, OF COURSE... IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE ME TO DO?
AH! YOUR PHEROMONES ARE SAYING "ANGRY." WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, TIANA...?
YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW...?
DO YOU KNOW HOW GRATING IT IS PLAYING SECOND-FIDDLE TO A SUPER HERO...?
ALL I HEAR IS, "TAKE THE CONTROLS WHILE I GO OFF AND DO SOMETHING INCREDIBLY BRAVE, TIANA." AND NURSING YOU BACK TO HEALTH WHEN YOU SCREW UP!

BUT TIANA, YOU WERE GREAT! YOU REALLY HELPED ME!
EXACTLY. "IS IT A BIRD...? IS IT A PLANE...? NO! IT'S SECRETARY GIRL! OFFICIAL SIDEKICK TO THE STRONG AND FAMOUS...!"
YOU FORGET, PAUL-PHILIP... I WAS BROUGHT UP IN THE CHURCH OF THOR! OUR WOMEN AREN'T STRONG ON SUPPORTING ROLES!
HELA WAS MY ROLE MODEL -- AND SHE WAS NO VESTAL VIRGIN.
OKAY, OKAY... I'M SORRY... ALTHOUGH I'M NOT SURE WHAT I'M MEANT TO BE SORRY ABOUT.
NO, IT'S ME... LIKE DACK, I'VE SPENT THREE WEEKS COOLING MY HEELS... I SHOULDN'T BLAME YOU -- BUT I DO HAVE MY OWN LIFE.
YOU'RE RIGHT... THE EVENTS OF THE LAST COUPLE OF MONTHS HAVE CHANGED BOTH OUR LIVES...
BUT LET'S AT LEAST PART AS FRIENDS.


GREEN GLOB
PLC


HELLO, GAIA... MISSING JOHN CLAUDE, HUH? I'LL BRING YOU SOME BISCUITS LATER, OKAY?
JOHN CLAUDE RAVOGA CEO

GAIA! YOU FOLLOWED ME INTO WORK AGAIN? HOW DO YOU DO THAT?

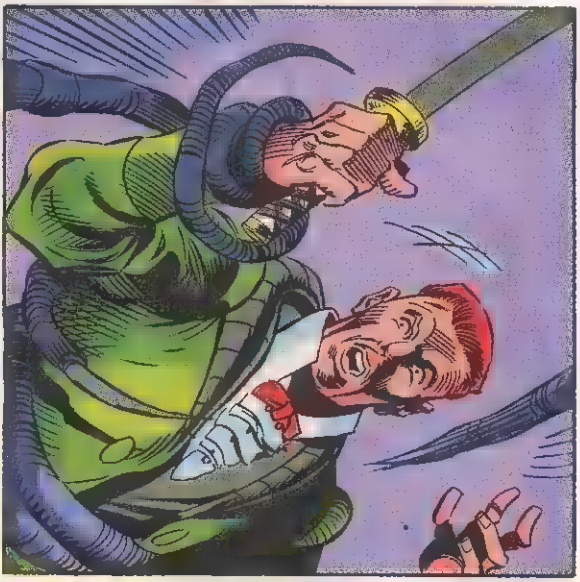

SO WHERE WERE WE, DAD? OH YEAH -- PAUL-PHILIP... OF COURSE I'M WORRIED ABOUT HIM, TOO... HE IS MY BROTHER.
YEAH, I KNOW... WE GOT HIM IN AT THE HEART OF ECO... HE WAS SUPPOSED TO PULL SOME STRINGS FOR US...

WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT HE'D TAKE THE JOB SO SERIOUSLY...? ANYWAY, I'D BETTER VID-OUT...
OH, BY THE WAY-- GAIA'S IN THE KITCHEN WITH THE MAID... SO THAT'S NOT OUR MUTT... SEE YOU, SON.

NOT GAIA...? COME HERE, GIRL...
I KNOW MY OWN DOG... DAD'S GOT HIS FIBERS CROSSED AGAIN... YOU'RE GAIA, ALL RIGHT...
OH, MY...!

GET BACK! GET BACK!

GET BACK! GET BACK!

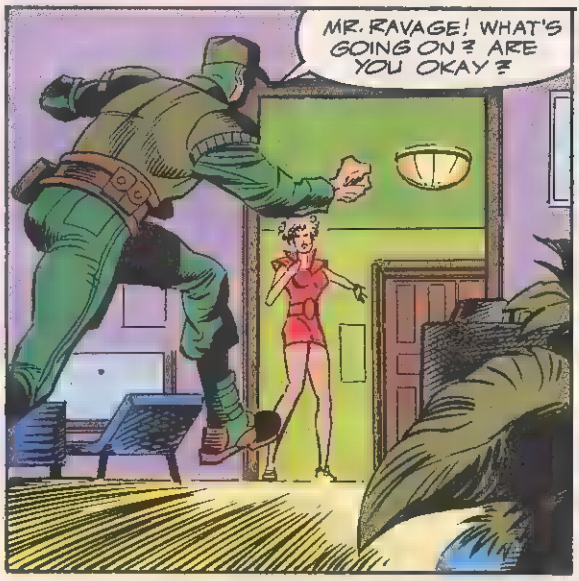


UH HH!

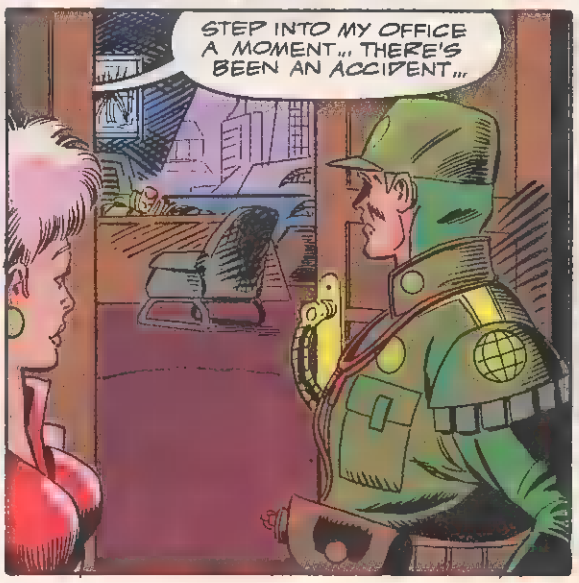
UH HH!

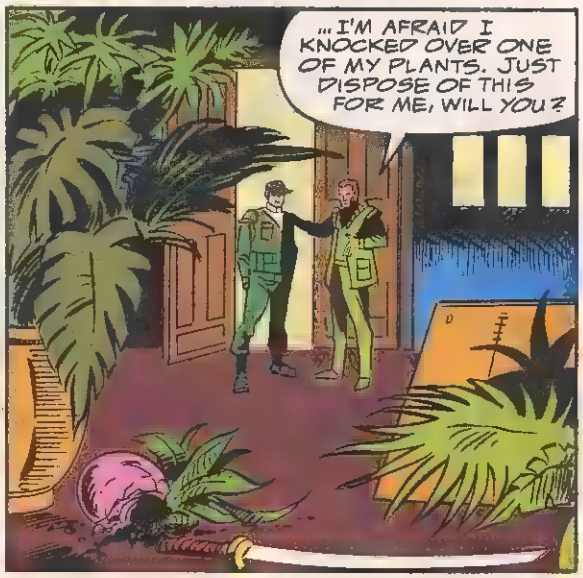
KRASH!

KRASH!


MR. RAVAGE! WHAT'S GOING ON? ARE YOU OKAY?

YES, YES, I'M FINE.

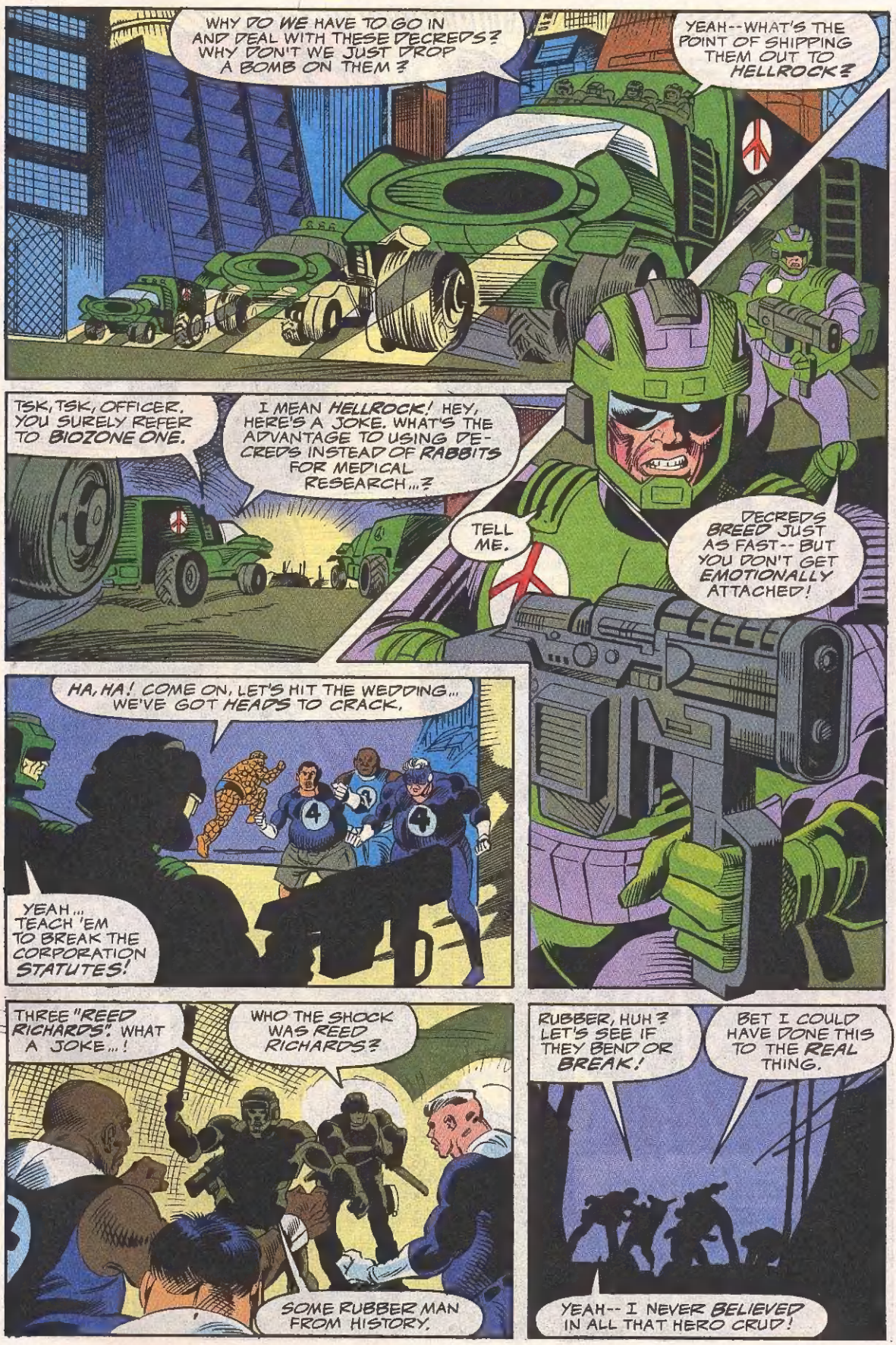

STEP INTO MY OFFICE A MOMENT... THERE'S BEEN AN ACCIDENT...


...I'M AFRAID I KNOCKED OVER ONE OF MY PLANTS. JUST DISPOSE OF THIS FOR ME, WILL YOU?

WHAT'S WITH THE FANCY COSTUMES? THIS ISN'T "HEROES DAY."
WE DRESS UP FOR ALL MAJOR SOCIAL EVENTS. TONIGHT IT IS A WEDDING.
COME-- JOIN US. PICK A COSTUME.
WE HAVE THE COSTUMES OF EVERY SUPER HERO THAT EVER EXISTED... PLUS A FEW THAT DIDN'T.
SOUNDS LIKE ME-- THE HERO WHO NEVER EXISTED. I'LL HAVE ONE OF THOSE.
AND SEÑOR-- WE MADE THESE BOOTS 'SPECIALLY FOR YOUR... GROWING PROBLEM.
THANKS. I TAKE YOUR POINT.
WELL, I'VE GOT THE HERO COSTUME... THE INFORMATION I NEED ON DISC... AND I'VE GOT THE CAUSE... I'LL GET STARTED AFTER THE WEDDING.
RAVAGE... SPEND A FEW DAYS YET WITH US. LEARN MORE ABOUT YOURSELF. YOU'RE SAFE HERE.

YOU'LL NEVER HAVE SEEN A WEDDING LIKE THIS... BUT LISTEN CAREFULLY TO THE WORDS -- THEY WILL TELL YOU MUCH ABOUT US... AND PERHAPS YOUR CAUSE.
I LOOK FORWARD TO IT, BARRIO MAN...
...BUT EVERYTHING'S HAPPENED SO FAST...
I JUST NEED A LITTLE TIME OUT BEFORE I GO TO ANY WEDDINGS...
AS YOU WILL, MY FRIEND...
THE DECREDS IN THE BARRIO HAVE GOT IT RIGHT... THEY'RE A SELF-SUFFICIENT, PEACEFUL TRIBAL SOCIETY.
BUT THE TROUBLE IS... THEY AVOID THE SYSTEM, BUT THEY CAN'T CHANGE IT.
THERE'S MY ENEMY... THE CITY... THE SYSTEM ...CORPORATIONS LIKE ALCHEMAX THAT HAVE ENSLAVED MANKIND.
HOW DO PEOPLE LIVE IN THAT WORLD?

WHAT'S OVER THERE...?
FOXES... COYOTES ...BEARS...! CREEPING INTO THE CITY UNDER THE CURTAIN OF NIGHT.
EVEN IN THE ROTTEN HEART OF MAN'S KINGDOM, THE BEAST ADAPTS AND SURVIVES!
NO... IT THRIVES!
IN PLACE OF EDUCATION, THEY HAVE CUNNING... INSTEAD OF GUNS, AGILITY AND HEIGHTENED SENSES.
I'M MORE BEAST THAN MAN, NOW... THESE ARE MY KIN... THIS IS MY TRIBE.
SHAKK!
SHAKK!
AND MY WAY... THAT'S HOW I WILL HIT BACK...


WHY DO WE HAVE TO GO IN AND DEAL WITH THESE DECREDS? WHY DON'T WE JUST DROP A BOMB ON THEM?
YEAH--WHAT'S THE POINT OF SHIPPING THEM OUT TO HELLROCK?
TSK, TSK, OFFICER. YOU SURELY REFER TO BIOZONE ONE.
I MEAN HELLROCK! HEY, HERE'S A JOKE. WHAT'S THE ADVANTAGE TO USING DECREDS INSTEAD OF RABBITS FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH...?
TELL ME.
DECREDS BREED JUST AS FAST-- BUT YOU DON'T GET EMOTIONALLY ATTACHED!
HA, HA! COME ON, LET'S HIT THE WEDDING... WE'VE GOT HEADS TO CRACK.
YEAH... TEACH 'EM TO BREAK THE CORPORATION STATUTES!
THREE "REED RICHARDS". WHAT A JOKE...!
WHO THE SHOCK WAS REED RICHARDS?
SOME RUBBER MAN FROM HISTORY.
RUBBER, HUH? LET'S SEE IF THEY BEND OR BREAK!
BET I COULD HAVE DONE THIS TO THE REAL THING.
YEAH-- I NEVER BELIEVED IN ALL THAT HERO CRUD!

YEAH, WELL-- BELIEVE IN ME, BUTTFACE!
GRRAOWLL
NEXT ISSUE: THE NEW RAVAGE IN...
REBIRTH OF THE BEAST!

RANTS & RAVES

JOEY CAVALIERI — EDITOR
MATTHEW MORRA — ASSISTANT EDITOR
c/o MARVEL COMICS, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016
ALL LETTERS FOR PUBLICATION MUST INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS. ALTHOUGH WE WILL GLADLY WITHHOLD THAT INFO UPON REQUEST.

OUT OF MY HEAD

This issue couldn't have been done without the aid and artistry of my talented and "valiant" friend, Jose Delbo.

Jose was the penciler of the very first work I ever edited, a daily newspaper strip about a guy who leaps tall buildings and like that.

Jose and I have purposely kept you "in the dark" this issue regarding Ravage's rapid transmogrification. Grant Miehm, whose stuff you saw last ish, worked on the re-design with Pat and Tony, and he pencils next month's unveiling! And an unveiling it is, which explains why I ain't running a preview on this page!

For more news, see the next issue box.

Dear Joey,

RAVAGE 2099 #6 was a good read, easily the best issue of the series yet, and that's saying something. Like many readers, I had my doubts about this series before the first issue came out. Stan hasn't written any monthly series for quite some time, although I've kept up with the Spider-Man dailies and knew he still had his writing knack. Of course, after the first issue my doubts were gone. This latest issue should please even the hardest critics.

Placing limits on Ravage's new powers was a good idea. If he could use his powers all the time, this book would lose its edge. Seeing a mostly normal man going through these adventures adds a certain element not seen in comics since the glory days of Batman and Daredevil. There's a feeling that Ravage is on his own, with no powers to back him up. While I think he should use those powers from time to time, it was a nice touch establishing that he couldn't use them all the time. This serves to make the character more human and easier to identify with.

Paul Ryan's pencils continue to improve, if such a thing is possible. His renderings of the world of 2099 are by far the best of the lost so far. While his style is not reminiscent of Kirby, it does put me in mind of the King. Comparing anyone to the King is the highest compliment I can think of, and Mr. Ryan has earned it. I hope he stays with this title for a long time to come.

As I said above, Stan hasn't lost his touch. The addition of the "New Atlanteans" is intriguing. I take it Namor isn't around? Laying the groundwork for the Atlantis of the next century should be interesting. The ending for the issue reminded me strongly of the early FANTASTIC FOUR stories. Stan makes good use of this type of ending, and I can't wait for next issue, to see what Ravage does.

All in all, a great issue. Let's see you top this one!

Joe Christiano
35 Coach Dr.
Waterbury, CT 06708

We're sure gonna try, Joe!

Dear Joey and Sarra,

I like the change you made to Ravage in #6, giving him that opti-lens to make up for his bad vision. It makes him look like a pirate, with the scar, bearded stubble and all.

About John D. Moon's observation that Ravage lost a little of his character at the end of #1, I'm inclined to agree. However, I'm sure this will return. It seems, to me at least, that when Ravage was betrayed by the people he trusted, he consciously or unconsciously adopted a new personality. He is now hard-boiled and gruff because he is afraid to let anyone get close to him again, lest they betray him. Gradually, though, he'll once more become accepting of people, albeit with much more caution. So, am I right, or completely off the mark?

Ben Herman
(Address withheld by request)

You're pretty close, Ben. But if you like change, you're going to get a lot of it this and next month!

Dear Joey and Sarra,

RAVAGE 2099 seems to have one small problem. . . it meanders a little too much for my taste. It doesn't seem to have any real direction. What are Ravage's goals, his motivations? The super powers help to a certain extent, but what he does with them, and why, are the true questions. Is there any chance of some of the new heroes of the future getting together any time soon? I think that Ravage and Spidey would have a lot to talk about. All and all you seem to be building a world in much the same way Stan and Jack did some time ago! It should be another fun ride!

Rusty Priske
5d Hemlock Cres, SW
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Pat and Tony are giving the book the motivation and direction you ask for, Rusty. They're also in on the plotting of "The Fall of the Hammer," our crossover this December that ties the 2099 books even closer together!

Dear Joey and Sarra,

I'm looking back at the beginnings of Spider-Man to see why the title became as popular as it currently is. I think one of the key elements beyond the natural appeal of the character was the reader's sense that things changed and that a defining moment for their hero could literally appear at any time. Peter Parker eventually went off to college, and coupled with the deaths of various people, he experienced dynamic changes that affected, and are affecting, him for the rest of his life.

Fast forward to the current day and we see the same thing happening again with Ravage under Stan's watchful eye. Take the new eye-patch for Ravage as an example. While certainly not a major change like the above-mentioned events in Spider-Man's life, the eye-piece represents an important element of RAVAGE 2099. Things change. Just when we thought Ravage had finished his origin and assumed his final look with his definitive powers, things change again. When things are constantly changing, things remain interesting. By this logic Ravage's origin will never be concluded, which is the sign of an excellent comic.

Hopefully Ravage will be evolved even further once he meets this "one man" who can help him control his power. Expecting Ravage to take off those gloves once an hour is stretching things a little, so I hope something is done and this slight flaw can be eliminated.

Aside from this very minor complaint, things are going great.

James Evans
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You've articulated our thinking exactly, James. but the changes Stan brought to our hero were always meant to be a stopgap on the road to the next level! Stay with us and you'll see what we mean!

NEXT ISSUE: The radiation Ravage received at Hellrock caused more problems than anyone imagined! Will the protagonist of the book be a man. . .or a monster? Join us for. . ."Rebirth of the Beast!"

MORE OF MARVEL 2099

SPIDER-MAN 2099 #10 This issue spotlights the man behind the mask! Miguel O'Hara, and is family and friends, take center stage in the kind of story only Peter, Rick and Al can create!

DOOM 2099 #8 You can bet that if there's a megalomaniacal despot like Fever raging through the Cyberverse, Doom will become an even bigger one! Well, he does in, "Emperor of the Mind!"

THE PUNISHER 2099 #7 Part One of the trilogy we're calling "Love and Bullets!" Hard-hitting, uncompromising, and raucous, in the Punisher tradition!